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# Composting & Vermicomposting



**Composting can be practiced almost anywhere... in your backyard, at work or at school, even at an apartment!**



Composting is the controlled, natural decomposition of organic matter and is nature's way of recycling organic materials.



It has many benefits - from improving soil health and increasing soil's water holding capacity, to saving money by reducing fertilizer use and frequent watering.



Vermicomposting is an alternative form of composting where you rely on Red Wiggler worms to convert vegetative food scraps into worm castings – a rich soil amendment.







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# 2018 San Diego County Climate Action



## Did you know that you can support the County's 2018 Climate Action Plan goals by gardening?



Composting at home or in a community garden is a sustainable solution that can help us achieve the County's 2030 goal of an 80% diversion in solid waste across the unincorporated county.



Installing a rain barrel through the County's Rain Barrel Rebate Program and landscaping with drought-tolerant plants are effective ways to conserve water. As of 2020, the County has provided 8,828 rain barrels.



Planting drought-tolerant trees is a great way to conserve water, create green space, and sequester carbon dioxide from our atmosphere. The adopted Landscape Update Ordinance requires two trees for every new residence.







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# Water Conservation



**Did you know that you can help protect San Diego's water quality and save money by using water more efficiently?**



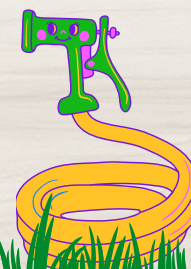
By preventing irrigation runoff and unnecessary outdoor water use, you can help to prevent polluted water runoff from entering our stormwater conveyances and waterways.



The County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program helps protect water quality by providing resources, workshops, and incentives to conserve water.



Homeowners and businesses can receive rebates for water-saving actions like making their landscape more sustainable, planting drought-resistant native plants, and installing rain-saving devices.







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# Invasive Pests



**Our Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures works to defend against invasive pests...**



Invasive pests are organisms that are not naturally found in a specific area and can cause damage.



Invasive insects and pests can damage fruits and vegetables by eating them or passing on harmful diseases.



Traps help protect local gardens and agriculture from invasive pests!







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# Plant for the Pollinators



In the United States, pollinators like bees, butterflies, beetles, bats and birds are responsible for 75% of our food supply – they sustain our ecosystems and help plants reproduce!



In order to protect important pollinators, the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures' Honey Bee Protection Program works to expand beekeeping opportunities in the Unincorporated County, promote responsible beekeeping, monitor for bee health, and ensure public safety.



Do you want to know how to attract and maintain pollinators in your own garden? Here's how:

- Plant seasonally and diversify flowers and flowering trees
- Consider leaving flowering weeds
- Avoid pesticides







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# Seasonal Produce



## Learn about the types of seasonal produce that are grown in San Diego County



**Fall:** Grapes, Peppers, Tomatoes, Carrots, Potatoes and Turnips



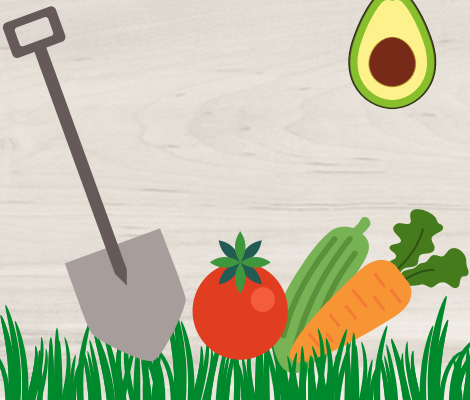
**Winter:** Apples, Citrus, Kiwi, Beets and Salad Greens



**Spring:** Berries, Grapefruit, Cucumber, Peas, and Cooked Greens



**Summer:** Melon, Stone Fruit, Watermelon, Summer Squash, Avocado, and Beans







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# Benefits of Eating Seasonal Produce



**Eating seasonally grown produce has several benefits for humans and our environment! Here are three reasons to eat with the seasons:**



Eating seasonal produce means that you're more likely to be eating local produce because seasonally grown food has a higher chance of coming from farms, gardens, and markets in your community!



When foods are grown out of season, they don't live up to their full potential. Foods that are grown and eaten during their appropriate seasons have more nutrients and health benefits.



Eating seasonally grown food near you means that food doesn't have to travel as far to get to your plate. This helps reduce the environmental impacts of transporting that food.







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# Gardening for Small Spaces



**Plant a container garden anywhere – even right on your own patio!  
Here are some tips for having a container garden in a small space:**



Plant edible and ornamental plants in your container, including ones that attract butterflies, birds and bees. Seasonal vegetables and flowers will add color and attract pollinators!



Succulent containers encourage low water usage.



Be sure to consider the weight of pots and filled containers when planting them on a balcony.



Soil containing silt and clay does not make for good potting media, it does not allow enough air flow to the roots. Various potting mixes are available to use or you can make your own.







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# Little Free Library



## Take a Book, Leave a Book



Little Free Libraries are book-sharing boxes where anyone can take a book, or leave a book for free.



To find a Little Free Library near you, visit [littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap](http://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap). They are present all throughout San Diego County!



Did you know that County Library Cards are free for California residents? To get one bring a picture ID and proof of residency to your local SDCL branch or visit [sdcl.org/card](http://sdcl.org/card) to apply online.

